THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, January 27, 1806.

Account of the Family of Fonder, who reside in a Vale in the New Forest, called Morgan's Bottom.

[From Pratt's Harveſt Home.]

"ABOUT three miles short of Dowton, we arrive at Rudbridge Common, midway, on which your eye is attracted by a little nest of cots to the left, of which you only see the thatched roofs, and these are so encanopied by orchard and garden trees, that you have rather stolen glances than full views. Some discover themselves half covered by foliage, others shew only the gable end, and one or two are surrounded by verdure almost to the chimney tops.

"I had been nearly exhausted by the extent of heath ground, which, to use my beloved Goldsmith's expressions, ever the happiest and the best, seemed

"Immeasurably spread,"

and lengthened as I rode. I had more than once honestly confessed to my friend that I began to flag, and that my love and admiration of nature was more powerful in me than the strength she allowed to explore her beauties. But the sudden prospect of these singularly placed cottages, which rise on your view without the least preparation, gave me new life, and I willingly followed the lead of my friend, who was winding down the slope, that in a few minutes brought us to a nearer view of the spot: it increased in interest as we approached. The knot of building consisted of about twenty cottages, to each of which was attached a garden and orchard; but so absolutely placed in a verdant nook, out of the bustle of town, and even of the country,

that nothing but a curious and inquisitive traveller would have deemed it worth while to have turned his horse's head or his own towards Morgan's vale or bottom; at least, 'till attention was commanded by one particular building, situated on the brow of the slope. This my friend joined me in pronouncing the very model of a true cottage, giving the full meaning of that modest word, and no more. It is equally distinct, on the one hand, from an air of meanness and poverty, and of the less pardonable one, of affected simplicity and pride abasing itself only to be exalted, on the other. Simplicity seems to have been its architect, and content its inmate: such, at least, were my ideas, on a first sight of the premises.

"But I am sure you feel yourself sufficiently interested to take a nearer view. Imagine yourself, then, on the green summit, where it is placed, as it ought to be from its superior beauty, above its fellows; yet, though it overlooks, it seems to smile on them all. Verdure, of different kinds, and of unfading character, encompasses it round about. Each side is covered with laurels, that flourish even to the roof; and that roof is so well thatched, that not an irregular straw deforms its inviting softness. The centre is rounded into an arch of yew, which affords at once a porch and alcove. The casements are of the true cottage size and construction: the body of the building is of the true cottage clay, of which however you only see small patches, as if by stealth, through the *inter-texture* of the laurel *au travers*. A little garden decorates the front; a fertile slip of orchard ground runs to some length on one side; there is a screen of mixed laurel and yew round the well, and a neatly compacted quickset in its fence. The whole has been gradually and imperceptibly, or, to speak more true, purloined from the common; as, indeed, has the entire cottagery, bit by bit, insomuch that we might fairly say, the peasants and the proprietors, like opposed armies, have disputed and maintained their ground inch by inch: and when any new territory, which they added to their castles, (cot and castle are the same things in England) has been reclaimed by one party, the other has watched his opportunity to get it back with some advantages; till the right of possession, no longer contended for, is considered as a good, at least a sufficient title, and on such tenure enjoyed if not admitted.

"But our curiosity on the outside excited a no less degree of curiosity within. The inhabitants of the cottage now came into the garden—all females, and of all ages, from the grandame to the latest born. The master of the mansion was at his labours in the forest."

A dialogue ensues, by which we are given to understand that the family of Fonder had lived there for four and twenty years. Our author, a little further, thus proceeds:

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"On my return, however, from the fair, my fellow-traveller met my wish more than half way, to stop as we passed the plain, at the gate of the interesting cottage. The evening sun gave a softer gloss to the laurel, and made the deep verdure of the yew, twined round the casement, look less sombrous, while every pane in the windows sparkled in the western way. The cottage cat sat ruminating on the edge of the well; but the cottage door, which I tried to open, was made fast. Presently a man of athletic form, but somewhat bent by time and labour, came from the orchard part of the premises, and respectfully bowed as he advanced to the gate. I related the adventure of the morning, of which I found him ignorant; and he informed us, that his dame and family, old and young, were gone to the fair. We repeated our admiration of his cottage, and of his ingenuity in giving it so many attractions."

It may be best again to have recourse to the colloquial style.

"Yes, I did it mostly after work hours. Will you be pleased, gentlemen, to look within?"

"Strong and good, Master Fonder; warm and snug."

"Very, Sir, and as dry as a bone."

"And full of comforts, I see, both above and below. A good Hampshire flitch or two, and some well looking barrels on their supporters."

"Yes, thank God, Sir, not amiss now. A good wife as ever man had, and children likewise, and not much taxing. But I doubt I must let my cottage go, after all. Some hard years, children growing up, and who want more than they did."

"Sell your cottage!"

"It is a little in mortgage already. I could not help it. The gentleman at the red house lent twenty pounds on it, and very kindly gave hopes I might keep it in my own hands. The miller let me have another ten. So I kept rubbing on; but I was forced to go to my friends and tell them, it did not signify trying, for I found I could not pay, therefore thought I had better give up. But the miller was against this; bid me not be downhearted, but consider I had children who might, by and by, help me out, as I had helped them, and would not hear of my selling my cottage outright. But I doubt I must, after all. I shall feel sad and strange at it; for I built and smartened it myself; we have all got used to it; and I can't expect at any time to get such another.

"That, thought I, you never can, poor fellow, for I do not believe there is, at all points, such another in England. I hastily put into the old man's hand the trifling fairings I had bought for the children; my friend gave something more worthy of his acceptance; and we left the spot with less chearful feelings than we had sought it.

"Just as we were losing sight of the cottage, and its connecting huts, I turned my head involuntarily. The evening continued lovely beyond the power of describing its variety of charms. There was certainly nothing in the imagery of the heavens above, or of the earth beneath, to render the prospect less exhilarating. The parting beams of the sun were yet playing on the cottage of laurel and yew; and the summits of the roofs of the delightful habitations were burnished with a ray yet more golden; the surrounding foliage partook of the tinge; and the intermediate heath-ground was rich in those colourings which, when the most magnificent orb of heaven is about to set, paints every object so exquisitely. With all this, however, there was an intercepting heavy cloud cast between the corporeal and the mental eye, which made the whole scene appear the reverse of what it had been.

"We recrossed the barren part of the way with unusual speed, and in unwonted silence. At length I could not help observing to my companion, that the idea of the poor woodman's necessity to sell his little paradise, actually haunted me! Yielding to this emotion, I exclaimed—"How many hundreds will this very night throw away, in one idleness or another, partly for want of better objects being within view, more than enough to redeem that honest creature's morsel of property—for an honest creature I find he is—and thereby place his cottage, and all it inherits, on the most solid foundation! Nay, how many are there who, if they were made acquainted with the circumstances, and were convinced of the great good that might be done with a very little, would be happy to direct the streams of their bounty into so proper a channel." But, I will admit that the account has an air of romance; and therefore, many will conclude that points not naturally attached to the objects have been strained into service, purposely to increase the interest of the narrative. Of making such events, however inductile, bend to the purpose pre-determined on, certain readers are apt to accuse authors; and nothing is more common than to discredit what we are resolved to think exaggerated. In what a variety of instances could I exemplify this opinion, and prove its fallacy! But, keeping to the objects just delineated, I have a stronger motive than my own justification for wishing such as are going into this tract of country, to make a visit to John Fonder and his family; and if they find them, as they undoubtedly will do, such as I have painted them, O! what soul-exhilarating opportunity will they have to SAVE the labourer, and all his little household, by appropriating to his redemption half the sum a man of fortune gives for a horse, or a woman of fashion for a trinket. And if, on the contrary, they do *not* find the people, whose cause I advocate, deserving rescue—deserving a prop to the falling cottage, they will, at any rate, be gratified

by

by seeing a most exquisite groupe of the best and sweetest objects nature has to produce; and, inasmuch as the facts fall short of the description, will have sufficient reason to accuse the describer."

[We are happy to find, that a lady of rank and fortune has contributed to rescue Fonder from his necessities, and render him happy.]

INTERESTING TRIAL.

RECEIPT DUTY.

HIS MAJESTY'S ATTORNEY-GENERAL *v.* WM. BELL.

Sittings in the Exchequer, after Michaelmas Term, 1805, before the Lord Chief Baron, Sir Archibald Macdonald, and a Special Jury.

MR. PLUMER, the counsel for the crown, stated to the court and jury, that this was an information filed in the name of his majesty's attorney-general, by order of the commissioners of stamps, against the defendant William Bell, a butcher, at Manchester, for having, in the month of October, 1804, received from a person of the name of Barrowclough, a sheriff's officer, also residing at Manchester, the sum of 11l. 15s. 6d. the amount of a bill delivered for meat sold to him, and refusing, at the time the money was paid, to sign a receipt for the same on a proper stamp, and to pay the duty thereon, as directed by the statute of the 43d of the present king, cap. 126; which act, in the 2d section, directs, that the stamp duty on all receipts shall be paid by the person receiving the money. And the 5th section also enacts, that it shall be lawful for any person, or any agent of any person, from whom any sum of money shall be due or payable, and who shall have paid such sum of money, to provide a piece of paper, duly stamped according to the amount of the sum so paid, or some higher rate of duty in the said act contained, and to demand and require of the person entitled to such sum of money a receipt for the same, and also the amount of the duty thereon; and then it provides, if any person, to whom any sum of money shall have been paid, shall refuse to give such receipt upon demand thereof, or pay the amount of the duty thereof, every such person shall forfeit and pay for every such offence the sum of ten pounds. He then observed, that this act casts the obligation upon the person who receives the money, to give a stamped receipt to the person paying it, or the person paying the money may tender a receipt stamp, and may demand of the person

person to sign it, after he has received the money; and he has a right also to demand the payment of the amount of the duty; and if the person receiving the money does not sign the receipt, and pay the duty, he incurs the penalty.

The case was proved agreeable to Mr. Plumer's opening, by Barrowclough, confirmed by James Butler, who proved that the defendant was paid 11l. 15s. 6d. for his bill, and then asked to sign a receipt, which was produced by Barrowclough, and to pay the sum of 4d. which was the price of the stamp. The defendant refused, and said, he should ask advice of his friends, and would sign it immediately after. Upon being frequently applied to afterwards, he persevered in his refusal to sign the receipt, or pay the 4d.

Mr. Dauncey made a few observations on behalf of the defendant.

When the lord chief baron addressed the jury as follows:

"I think this is an extremely proper prosecution. I take the object of it to be to give publicity to the law. I entirely agree with what has fallen from the counsel for the crown, that the receipt must be given immediately upon the payment of the money, at the peril of the party who refuses it. By your verdict I hope, therefore, it will be understood, that the law must be put in execution; and that a person withholds a receipt at the time of receiving the money at his peril. It is impossible that to a butcher (a man in considerable trade I should suppose, by having a bill of 11l. 15s. 6d. paid by a customer not of very high rank), the 4d. should be an object to him. I take it to be an experiment on the part of this man, and perhaps many others, to try whether the law can be avoided or not. It is not likely he should squabble merely about 4d. nor is it likely he could have any doubt about the terms of the receipt. It was extremely proper that it should be published to the world, that a man must give a receipt upon receiving money, and must do it immediately. That I take to be the true interpretation of the law in this case. Gentlemen, you can have no doubt in finding a verdict for the crown.

The jury immediately gave a verdict for the king. Penalty 10l.

Stamp-Office, January 13, 1806.

An Account of the Present State of Tournay.

Translated from CAMUS.

THREE considerable manufactories, two of china and one of carpets, are to be noticed at Tournay. One of the china manufactories is of long date.—There is made at it a great

great quantity of what is called blue and white, with which all Flanders is supplied; they have at this manufactory a particular process in forming cups and other like vessels. They do not turn them on the lathe, or compress the clay in a mould; but they dilute it in water, and when the liquor has acquired a proper consistency, they pour it into moulds, two or three hundred of which are ranged together. When they have filled them all, they return to the first in the row: the liquid part is drawn off by a gentle inclination: the surplus adheres to the side of the vessel; it forms the piece which it is intended to make. It is detached by means of a slight stroke from the mould: it is left to dry, and then baked.

Citizens Piat and Febvre are the proprietors of the carpet-manufactory. It is interesting on account of the number of persons whom it employs; seven hundred in the town, and three thousand in the suburbs, and in this number very young children. The wool is used as it is taken from the back of the animal, and, except a great part which is sent into the country to be spun, undergoes all the necessary preparations of combing, spinning, dying, and weaving, in the house.

This manufactory is important also on account of the goods which they fabricate in it. These are mock-velvets or plushes, with the nap cut, as finished velvets, or with the nap not cut, as shorn velvets, and carpets in imitation of those of Savona. The conductors of the manufactory allow that the carpets of this kind have not the merit of those of Savona, either with respect to the distinct and fixed nature of the colours, or the beauty of the patterns. They assert that their weaving is of the best quality, and their carpets not so liable to rent as those of Savona.—They also execute their work with quicker dispatch at Tournay than at Savona. Mock-velvet carpets are fabricated at Lisle and many towns. Those of Citizens Piat and Le Febvre surpass the others in the thickness of the nap, the richness of the colours, the harmony of the design, and the good taste displayed in the collection of the parts of which it is composed. A carpet of mock-velvet is not to be compared, in point of duration, with the carpets of Savona. These will adorn a room for two or three ages of man: a carpet of mock velvet will not last above a few years. The price is also in proportion. A carpet of black velvet sells for twenty or thirty sols a square foot; a square foot of a carpet of Savona costs from eight to ten francs. The manufactory of Citizens Piat and Le Febvre is in the height of prosperity, and carried on with the greatest activity. The orders for it exceed the number of carpets their shops can supply.

Tournay has preserved its college and its public library. The library was that of the chapter of the cathedral. The entrance to it is through the church, which has been sadly laid waste.

The

The library-room is a fine one; and though it has been stripped of its most valuable books, some excellent books and manuscripts are preserved in it. Besides the books collected together in this library, there remains a considerable deposit in the town-hall, where among many books of no value there is room yet to glean. I have seen there a fine Lactantius printed at Venice, March 19, 1478.

Under the library, in a small building, which rises into a wing, there are many rooms, formerly designed for the retreat of old priests named by the chapter, and to whose support many foundations contributed. They are converted into a house for the reception of aged and infirm citizens, who have fallen into misfortunes. The number is thirty. They furnish their own apartments, and clothe themselves. Each has a chamber and a sitting-room to himself. They take their meals together.

In other quarters of the town there are houses for the reception of the sick, the aged, and orphans, without mentioning houses supported by the produce of particular foundations.

The hospital for the sick has forty-eight beds. It is under the direction of three old religious hospitallers. The daily expence of the sick is estimated at twenty-five sous, when bread is not very dear. It is proper to remark on the article of the bread which is eaten in all the hospitals, of the united departments, that no white bread, such as is given in the hospitals at Paris, is allowed, nor even what we call brown. It is almost black, often made of rye only, without separating the bran from the flour, except that for the sick they sometimes buy white bread. But we must observe also, that the same bread, though in a small quantity, is eaten in the best houses in the town. To strangers they serve up white bread, or bread of Paris; and they discover a Parisian by the quantity of which he eats, an enormous deal compared with what they consume in the country.

The hospital for the aged is an asylum for the old of either sex, to the number of an hundred. Since the administrative commission established by the law of Vendemaire in the fifth year, none are admitted before the age of seventy-two. The commission found that the hospital had been encumbered by the protegées of the former trustees. They eat in a common hall. Twice a week meat is allowed. The daily expence is estimated at from thirty to forty sous. The labour is voluntary, and the profit is given to him who works. Some of the men go into the town to labour.

The hospital for orphans, where I have seen two hundred and forty-eight young girls, had been a long time ill managed, through a bad economy. A sensible woman, chosen by the administrative commission, has established order in it. There remains no trace of the old state of things but in the want of linen: some beds are entirely without sheets; others have one

sheet only under the coverlid, the mattrass remaining bare. Two lie in a bed. Their shifts are worn a fortnight. Their diet consists of a little meat, twice in a week; on other days, of bread and water, and in the evening bread and butter. They reckon the daily expence of the children at eight sous. There is an economic furnace in the hospital, and they sometimes distribute from it into the town Rumford's soup. The building, which was an old seminary, is large and well disposed.

The administrative commission established, in the month Floreal, in the tenth year, an hospital for orphan-boys, on the same footing as that for girls. I have seen in it to the number of sixty one. The biggest go to labour in the town. Deserted children are received into the same hospital. They have a list of nurses in the country, who offer themselves for the children at the breast, to whom they are sent as soon as they are brought to the hospital, and they remain in the country 'till they can be received into it. The number of the children nursed in the country amount to three hundred.

An hospital for health is destined for the reception of sick and wounded females. It was a convent for girls, to which the infirmary was attached. Even to this day there are more religious than sick in it.

I saw in a house for lunatics nine men and five woman in two separate sides of it. Most of them were old and infirm. The yards are very small; and, except the time allowed for walking, the lunatics are shut up, some on the ground-floor, and others on the first story; but this is a mere garret. The cells are frightful; those on the ground floor because the thick fastenings give them the appearance of a dungeon; and the garrets, because the wooden bars give them a resemblance to coops for poultry. They have, besides, neither free air or light.

Twenty girls, born of creditable parents, who have lost their fortunes, are received into a house called the Monelles. They are admitted at seven, and dismissed at eighteen years of age. They are neatly kept, and lie single. Their principal work is lace, which they make very fine, like that of Valenciennes. They are well fed and clothed, and care is taken to employ them in the internal business of the house.

In the town of Soignes there is also an hospital, and a house for orphan girls, which the president assured me is very well directed. I can give no account of its state, because, being in haste to reach Brussels, I did not visit this establishment.

INTERESTING NARRATIVE.

WHEN the Fly cruizer, belonging to the East India company, with dispatches, was captured by the French privateer

vateer La Fortune, in the gulph of Persia, the packets were thrown overboard, to prevent falling into the hands of the enemy.

It appears that Mr. Flower, who was a passenger on board the Fly, had taken very correct bearings of the ship's situation, at the time the letters were thrown overboard. When landed soon after, at Bushire, he communicated his observations to Captain Youl and Mr. Loane; and they being all strongly impressed with the idea of the possibility of recovering the packet, purchased a vessel, and having provided creepers, and other necessary apparatus, set sail towards the spot where the packet had been dropped, near the island of Khen. At the end of three days their labours were crowned with success; they instantly weighed anchor, and were proceeding down the gulph, on their way to Bombay, with the recovered packet, when they were unexpectedly attacked by two pirate boats belonging to Jochassum, and full of armed Arabs, who, boarding the vessel and cutting and stabbing all whom they met, forced the whole crew overboard. Nine, out of sixteen, were wounded; and all must have perished miserably, had not a long-boat, which they accidentally picked up at sea, been in tow at the time. In it they took refuge, and the Arabs finally took them into one of their boats, and landed them at Ejmaum, a small town on the Arab side, about thirty miles from Noselkeim: it has a good harbour, and appears to be their place of rendezvous. There they were detained thirty-three days, subject to every hardship; and, at the end of that time, to complete their misery, were about to be sold as slaves, when a Wahabee chief, who heard that they were English, and who had known the British resident at Bussora, interfered, and procured them a passage to Khen.

They were landed at that island, after having been stripped of every thing, except their shirts and trowsers, and the packet, the great source of their labours and sufferings. Two days were devoted to drying the letters, which had been about five weeks in the sea; and their purpose was not yet effected, when ten Jochassum boats appeared in sight. The unhappy men, instantly carrying off the packet, sought shelter among the rocks, where they remained hid for two days and nights, exposed to every hardship, and nearly perishing with hunger and thirst. Meanwhile, the pirates burned and laid waste the villages on the island, which forced the wretched inhabitants to pass over to the main land; so that on the departure of the pirates, our sufferers were left the undisturbed and solitary possessors of the island. After waiting four days longer for an opportunity of crossing over to the continent, they obtained a passage to the neighbourhood of Ararack; on their arrival at which place they learned, that the pirate boats had anchored there, and were committing the same havoc as at Khen.

Thus

Thus pursued by misfortune, they were forced to walk to Cheroo, a distance of nearly forty miles. This town is under the government of Sheik Aga Mahomed, who, at first, received them in a friendly manner; but finding them without money, and stripped of every thing valuable, he drove them from the house which he had provided for them, and treated them with the most unfeeling cruelty and contempt. For some nights, in excessively bad weather, they had no covering but an inverted boat, under which they took refuge. Finding at length no probability of being enabled to proceed on their voyage by sea, they determined to walk on foot to Bushire.

After two days march from Cheroo, they reached Nochyloo, without shoes or stockings; where, to their great surprise and joy, they found that Sheik Rama, had invited them to his island of Busheab, and supplied them with every thing his house afforded, with the kindest hospitality. Nevertheless, in consequence of their past sufferings, they were all seized with fever and ague. The extreme state of debility, to which, from their long hardships, they were all reduced, joined with the want of medicines and medical advice, made their illness extremely severe, and though Sheik Rama gave them a boat, in which they arrived at Bushire, on the 4th of January, Captain Youl, worn out with sickness and fatigue, died on the 5th, and was followed to the grave by Mr. Flower, on the 7th. Some of the seamen likewise died. We are happy to learn, that Mr. Loane, who arrived some time ago at Bombay, is quite recovered.

We understand, the Bombay government has ordered a very liberal allowance to be paid to the parties concerned, and to the families of such of them as are dead.

Pleasing Instance of the Value and Importance of the Life-Boat.

To Mr. Greathead, Inventor of the Life-Boat, South Shields.

Sir, *North Shields, January 5*, 1806.

DURING my stay at Memel, in the month of September, in the year 1805, an accident happened, which has contributed to spread the fame of the life-boat far and wide among foreign nations. One afternoon, a vessel was observed in the offing, apparently in distress: it then blew hard at west, and the sea was very high. She soon drifted on shore upon the sand, which runs off from the south point of the harbour, where the sea broke over her with great fury. As night was fast approaching, no time was to be lost. Mr. J. Johnson, commo-

dore of pilots, instantly ordered the life boat to be manned; but, to his surprise, not one of the pilots would go with him: fortunately, several English ships were at anchor at the lower part of the harbour, and two of the masters, with part of their crews, instantly offered their service, and the boat, steered by the commodore, soon proceeded towards the wreck. It was nearly dark when she reached it. As the vessel lay with her stern directly to windward, she could afford but little shelter to the boat, so that, from the awkwardness of the landsmen and passengers on board the vessel, it was quite dark before they were all, to the number of fourteen, received into the boat. I had two sons in the boat, who afterwards expressed to me their satisfaction at the ease and security with which they waited for these poor people, in the midst of a sea where no other boat could have survived a moment. On leaving the wreck, then going fast to pieces, a most tremendous squall of wind and rain came on, before which they, in perfect safety, scudded into the harbour. Had not the life-boat gone off when it did, the whole of the people, thus preserved, must have been lost in a few hours.

On landing their freight, they found they had been instrumental in saving the lives of persons of distinction. The vessel was a cutter, belonging to the Swedish navy, commanded by a lieutenant, and had on board a Swedish gentleman, chamberlain to the queen of Sweden, and son to the graaf Lawenheilm, a Swedish nobleman; he was bound on a mission to the court of Berlin, on the then situation of affairs in Europe. Both the count and lieutenant could speak English, the latter fluently, and they both expressed to me, next morning, the high sense they should ever entertain of the humanity and gallantry of the English, in risking their lives to preserve a set of people to whom they were entire stranges. They said they were struck with astonishment, when, in their hopeless situation, they beheld the life-boat coming to their relief, and saw with what ease she set at defiance the combined fury of the boisterous elements. So much indeed were they struck with admiration at the performance of the life-boat, that they declared they would, on their return to Sweden, use all their interest to have them ordered by the Swedish government.

I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,

T. S. RICHMOND.

Roman Treaty of Peace with Macedon.

FROM a fragment of Polybius, lately discovered in a convent on Mount Athos, are taken the following extracts from a treaty

treaty of peace made by the Romans with Philip the 4th, or as some reckon, the 5th, king of Macedon, in which the hard terms alluded to by Livy and others are specified at length.

"Philip shall have no establishment of troops beyond 500 soldiers.

"Philip shall give up all his elephants, and never have another in his possession.

"Philip shall undertake no expedition, either by himself, or in conjunction with any other power, except with the leave, and approbation of the Roman senate.

"Philip shall pay immediately 500 talents of gold into the Roman treasury, and 500 more in ten years, in certain proportions.

"Philip shall leave his son as a hostage for the performance of these conditions."

MEMOIRS *of the late* LORD NELSON.

(Continued from Page 49.)

LITTLE more than a year had now elapsed from the ratification of peace, when every thing seemed to announce its speedy termination. Had Lord Nelson possessed a mind less ardently desirous of glory, he might with justice have advanced his severe sufferings, and infirm health, as a plea for an honourable retirement; but private considerations were never placed by him in competition with public benefit. Long and painful were the toils of this great man—short and fleet his moments of repose. The war was now renewed—he offered his services, and in May, 1803, was appointed to the command in the Mediterranean, and sailed on the 20th, in the Victory of 110 guns, accompanied by the Amphion frigate. On this station he passed many tedious months, which nothing but a sense of duty could reconcile him to. In fact, patience and vigilance were the only qualities he had to practise for a very considerable time. During this period he received the thanks of the city of London, which were, however, by no means so gratifying to his feelings, from the circumstance of the name of his next in command, Sir Richard Bickerton, being unaccountably passed over a second time, even when the third in command had been included. Lord Nelson would not overlook this circumstance, and wrote the following spirited letter to the mayor, in which he shewed a noble generosity of feeling, that did him the highest honour.

"*Victory*,

"*Victory, August* 1, 1804.

"My Lord,

"This day I am honoured with your lordship's letter of April 9th, transmitting me the resolutions of the corporation of London, thanking me as commanding the fleet blockading Toulon.

"I do assure your lordship, that there is not that man breathing who sets a higher value upon the thanks of his fellow-citizens of London than myself; but I should feel as much ashamed to receive them for a particular service marked in the resolution, if I felt that I did not come within that line of service, as I should feel hurt at having a great victory passed over without notice.

"I beg to inform your lordship that the port of Toulon has never been blockaded by me: quite the reverse; every opportunity has been offered the enemy to put to sea, for it is there that we hope to realize the hopes and expectations of our country, and I trust that they will not be disappointed.

"Your lordship will judge of my feelings upon seeing that all the junior flag-officers of other fleets, and even some of the captains, have received the thanks of the corporation of London, whilst the junior flag-officers of the Mediterranean fleet are entirely omitted. I own it has struck me very forcibly; for, where the information of the junior flag-officers and captains of other fleets was obtained, the same information could have been given of the flag-officers of this fleet and the captains; and it was my duty to state, that more able and zealous flag-officers and captains do not grace the British navy than those I have the honour and happiness to command. It likewise appears, my lord, a most extraordinary circumstance, that Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Bickerton should have been, as second in command in the Mediterranean fleet, twice passed over by the corporation of London; once after the Egyptian expedition, when the first and third in command were thanked—and now again. Consciousness of high desert, instead of neglect, made the rear-admiral resolve to let the matter rest until he could have an opportunity personally to call upon the lord mayor to account for such an extraordinary omission; but, from this second omission, I owe it to that excellent officer not to pass it by.

"And I do assure your lordship, that the constant, zealous, and cordial support I have had in my command from both Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Bickerton, and Rear-Admiral Campbell, has been such as calls forth all my thanks and admiration. We have shared together the constant attention of being more than fourteen months at sea, and are ready to share the dangers and glory of a day of battle; therefore it is impossible that I can ever allow myself to be separated in thanks from such supporters.

I have the honour to remain, with the very highest respect, your lordship's most faithful and obedient servant,

(Signed) "NELSON and BRONTE.

"*To the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor.*"

Soon afterwards a circumstance occurred, which, though trifling in itself, yet, as it serves to illustrate the sentiments of humanity which ever influenced his lordship, and the patronage he invariably bestowed on merit, it would be unpardonable to pass over in silence. On the 11th of September, a seaman of the Victory fell from the forecastle into the sea. On hearing the cry of a man overboard, Mr. Edward Flin, a volunteer, jumped after him from the quarter-deck, and, notwithstanding the extreme darkness of the night, and the ship being at the time under sail, he had the good fortune to save the man. The next morning Lord Nelson sent for Mr. Flin, and presented him with a lieutenant's commission, appointing him to the Bittern sloop of war. He told him, at the same time, that he would strongly recommend him to the lords of the admiralty; in consequence of which, their lordships' confirmed the appointment.

After the destruction of the French fleet at Aboukir, it was but seldom an enemy's ship ventured out of harbour, the naval force of Britain being constantly employed in blockading the havens of France. On the renewal of the war this system, though severely censured by some, was again resorted to, and fleets were stationed, without intermission, off the ports of Brest, Boulogne, Rochfort, and Toulon. Meanwhile the ambitious Bonaparte made the restoration of the French marine the particular attention. The French armies assembled on the coasts, and the menacing preparations for the invasion of the British islands drew the attention of the government from the immediate object of the fleets that were equipping at different ports, for the purpose of wounding Great Britain in the tenderest part.

In the year 1805, a French squadron, commanded by Rear-Admiral Missiossi, having eluded the vigilence of the British fleets, got out of Rochfort, and sailed to the West Indies, with a design of pillaging the British islands there. A more formidable squadron sailed from Toulon for the same purpose. Lord Nelson was at this period stationed about forty miles from that port, observing the whole line of the Italian, French, and Spanish coasts, from Palermo, by Leghorn, Toulon, and Barcelona, to the Streights of Gibraltar. Through this extent of sea his ships cruized in every direction, and detained all the French and Spanish vessels they chanced to meet with.

On the 15th of January, Admiral Villeneuve put to sea with his squadron, consisting of eleven sail of the line and two frigates. The Sea-Horse, Lord Nelson's look-out frigate, immediately

ately made the necessary signal, and narrowly escaped being taken by the enemy. The Venus sloop of 10 guns, with dispatches from his lordship, unfortunately fell into their hands; but the dispatches had previously been thrown overboard.

When Lord Nelson was informed that the French fleets had escaped, he flew at his own risk, and without orders, to save the West Indies from depredation and pillage. His arrival was hailed with the utmost joy by the inhabitants of Barbadoes, and his name alone gave them security. He performed this service with a gallantry so noble, as to expose the combined fleets to the ridicule of Europe. Never in the naval annals of this, or any other country, was such an example of promptitude, decision, and rapidity, displayed as on this occasion; and great as the noble admiral had shewn himself in his former achievements, his talents never shone with so much lustre, and his resources were never exhibited to such advantage, as in this memorable expedition. It may even be fairly asserted, he never had rendered more important services to his country. He had rescued, by the mere terror of his name, our West India islands, from the jaws of a rapacious foe. In the short space of six months he had twice traversed the Mediterranean, and the Atlantic, from the shores of the Nile to the gulph of Mexico. Each succeeding disappointment seemed to inflame him with new ardour in this unparalleled chace; and when he at length found that the enemy had eluded all his diligence, he instantly sent home advice of their return, that measures might be taken for the purpose of intercepting them.

In consequence of this precaution, a squadron of fifteen sail of the line, under Sir Robert Calder, was cruising between Ferrol and Corunna, when, on the 22d of July, the combined fleet appeared in sight. Undaunted by the superiority of numbers, the British admiral boldly advanced to the attack. Filled with the tremendous idea of Lord Nelson, who, like a spectre, haunted the fugitives, Villeneuve and Gravina, they concluded that it was the squadron under his lordship which they had fallen in with. Under this impression, several of the French and Spanish ships at once bore down and attacked the Windsor Castle, of 98 guns, which they mistook for the flag-ship of the noble admiral himself. The San Raphael, of 84, and El Fermo, of 74 guns, fell prizes to British prowess in this unequal contest. The unfavourable weather which ensued, prevented the renewal of the action, and gave the enemy an opportunity to escape first into Vigo, and afterwards into Ferrol.

(To be continued.)

ARABIAN CAMEL.

IN the Menagerie du Museum at Paris there are two Arabian camels, which were given to the republic, in the year 1798, by the dey of Algiers. At the time of their arrival they were about three years of age. Their hair was almost white, except on the top of the hunch, where it was somewhat red. They are now become of a darker or greyish-red colour.

In Egypt the grey ones are thought the strongest. There are some camels that are black and white, but they are very scarce. The male eats thirty pounds weight of hay in a day, and the female twenty: each of them is allowed a pail of water a day.

Some of these animals are reported to live to be fifty years of age. They always sleep with their eyes open.

USEFUL INVENTION.

THE ingenious Mr. John Phillips, overseer of the ordnance works at Plymouth, among many other useful discoveries, has lately invented a new method of weather-boarding, whereby any building of wood may be laid together without nail, screw, pin, or cement of any kind, and capable of resisting both wind and weather, well adapted for the construction of sentry boxes, or may be applied to buildings of larger extent. A specimen of which may be seen in a sentry-box now in the timber-pound at Plymouth-Dock, constructed on the above principles, which renders the brave soldier's situation on duty much more comfortable than those built after the old method, besides a considerable saving of materials.

It is to be wished the inventor may be properly noticed, so as to encourage him in the prosecution of his ingenious discoveries.

Answer, by Robert Maffett, of Plymouth, to J. Willcock's Question, inserted June 17.

LET the house be in the centre of a circle whose circumference is 360 degrees; then the mill bore north-west from the house, which is four points of the compass, making an angle of 45° with the meridian; and the church bore south-west from it, which is three points $=\angle 33° 45'$; again, the market bore north-east, which is four points $=45°$. Hence from what is given in the question, and the angles being found by a few trials, I find the church to be distant from the house $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles, the mill $2\frac{3}{4}$, and market $1\frac{1}{4}$.—Q. E. D.

Answer, by W. E. of Lyme Regis, to P. Gove's Charade, inserted November 18.

AH! friend, how bless'd our lot! should we but stand,
On the great JUDGEMENT-DAY, at God's right hand:
Crown'd with immortal honours, then to rise,
To cloudless, fadeless joys beyond the skies.

*** We have received the like answers from W. Bickham, jun. of Ashburton; R. Perring, of Kingsbridge; T. Gill, officer of excise near Wells; Rusticus, of Awliscombe; J. James, of Hinton St. George; Adrianus; Thomas Prout, of Mevagissey; P. Codd, of Dean Prior; J Day, of Wimborne; H. Lewarn, of Grampound; and T. Trobridge, of Plymouth.

Answer, by T. Gill, Officer of Excise near Wells, to T. Rutger's Charade, inserted November 25.

THE FIELD-FARE, Sir, without a doubt,
Will make your charade clearly out.

*** Similar answers have been received from Adrianus; W. Bickham, jun. of Ashburton; P. Ninnis, of Tavistock; H. Glasson, of Crowan; and Rusticus, of Awliscombe.

Answer, by J. Whittle, of Upway, to J. Lewis's Rebus, inserted November 25.

WOAD's a plant that's us'd in dying,
I've prov'd it so by frequent trying.

*** Similar answers have been received from John Woodman, jun. of North Curry; T. Gill, officer of excise near Wells; Adrianus; Rusticus, of Awliscombe; J. Day, of Winborne; W. Sparks, of Uffculm; and P. Codd, of Dean Prior.

A CHARADE, *by S. L. Margary, of Newton Abbot.*

LOOK! summer shews its smiling face,
And meads are deck'd with Flora's race;
My first displays o'er all the sphere,
And you the same will soon declare;
And, Sirs, my next in towns is seen,
Which you will quickly name I ween;
And to this time, this very hour,
All seamen own its pleasing power:
Connect my whole, 'twill bring to light
An instrument I much do like.

A CHARADE, *by T. Rutger, of Clowance.*

IN earth's dark caverns oft my first is found,
Where curious structure forms the mass around;
There the bold 'venturer oft with labour gains,
A decent livelihood for all his pains;
And if by chance my costly next he spies,
Full glad he bears away the glitt'ring prize;
Still, as he finds it useless until sold,
The precious boon he gladly yields for gold:
Ingenious youths, who're fond of mystic lore,
My whole's a trick which you'll no doubt explore.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

ODE *to* HEALTH.

WRITTEN IN THE HOUR OF SICKNESS.

ALL-CHEERING goddess! rosy health!
Whose joys exceed the joys of wealth,
Why hidest thou from me thy smiling face?
With anxious looks, and cautious tread,
I, wand'ring, seek thy friendly aid,
And, persevering, search in ev'ry place.

But ah! fatigu'd, and worn with pain,
Alas! I seek thy face in vain,
In vain I scrutinize thy healing pow'rs;
O charming goddess! ever sweet,
Where shall I find thy blest retreat,
In wood, or grove, or mead, or shady bow'rs?

Or art thou flown to yonder plain,
To bless each honest, rustic swain,
Where temperance and exercise bear sway?
Or o'er yon mountain's barren waste,
Where first Aurora shews her face,
And cheering Phœbus darts his early ray?

Or art thou, deaf to human cries,
Retir'd to yonder balcy on skies,
To wanton on thy own elysian plain?
O yes! and lo! obsequious thence,
Sent by the hand of providence,
Thou com'st with life and vigour in thy train?

At sight of thee what joys I feel!
What pleasures o'er my senses steal!
While pain and wan disease before thee fly;
My soul expanding at the view,
Doth all her faculties renew,
And pleasing scenes of happiness descry.

O blooming goddess! fair and bright!
Parent of ease and pure delight,
What sweet complacence in thy looks I see!
O! condescend with me to dwell,
And never quit my rural cell,
But ever fix thy blest abode with me!

Malborough. T. JARVIS.

BALLAD.

YE courtly dames, ye virgins fair,
Who wanton in St. James's air,
Come listen to my lay;
'Tis of a maiden lowly bred,
O'er whose contented, humble head,
Grandeur ne'er darts its ray.

With

With the gay lark, at dawn of morn,
She trips across the verdant lawn,
And greets the op'ning day;
Or listens while the woods resound,
With the mellifluous pleasing sound
Of Colin's tuneful lay.

Her flocks, her herds, her constant care,
To guard them from all danger near,
That accident may bring;
Sweetly she strays amid the fields,
Where nature in her beauty yields
Each beauty of the spring.

The blooming rose adorns her cheek,
Her soft blue eyes with sweetness speak
Of innocence the tales;
The shepherds own her beauty's pow'r,
And style her thro' the passing hour,
The goddess of the vale.

No cares distress her youthful life,
Unknown to envy and to strife,
She wanders thro' the grove;
While Colin, by some mountain's side,
Of all the swains the hope and pride,
Recites his artless love.

And when the day begins to low'r,
And slowly brings the evening hour,
Homeward she bends her way;
In humble praise her heart she lifts
To Heav'n, which shed the various gifts,
That mark'd the blooming day.

Thus, guileless, in her blest career,
She passes each revolving year,
To sorrow e'er unknown;
While sweet content, that goddess bright,
And health and peace their pow'r unite,
To stamp the maid their own.

Ye gay profuse! here turn your eyes,
The blooming, beauteous maiden prize,
Her virtues e'er revere;
The child of nature, to your heart
Picture, devoid of guile or art,
And view its semblance here.

H. W. B.

The PIE-WOMAN's EPITAPH.

HERE into the dust
The mouldering crust
Of Eleanor Batchelor's shoven,
Well vers'd in the arts
Of pies, custards, and tarts,
And the lucrative skill of the oven.

When she'd liv'd long enough,
She made her last puff;
A puff by her husband much prais'd;
Now here she doth lie,
And make a dirt pie,
In hopes that her *crust* shall be *rais'd*.